

24 produce desired emission concentrations, wherein the resultant emission concentrations will be a proportional function of the respective emission concentrations for the different fuels. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

25 An energy producer (e.g., a boiler operator) can substitute the natural oil byproduct, in whole or in part, for another fuel, such as number 2 fuel oil, number 6 fuel oil, coal and combinations thereof, as an energy source to be burned in the furnace of the boiler. In so doing, the energy producer can achieve a substantial decrease in the amount of nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter emitted as a consequence of burning the fuels. In some situations, a desired level of energy production cannot be achieved using only a combination of number 2 and number 6 fuel oil, for example, without violating regulated pollutant-emission limitations. ~

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 19.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20 to read as follows:

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1. (Amended) A clean-emissions method for generating energy comprising the steps of:
vaporizing a fatty acid composition via distillation from a feed composition including at least one of an animal fat and a vegetable oil, leaving a non-vaporized natural oil byproduct;
burning the natural oil byproduct to release energy; and
harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.
 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, the substitution of the natural oil byproduct producing a decrease in emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

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13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the distilled, fatty acid composition comprises at least about 90% of the distillation feed material by weight fatty acid.

15. (Amended) A clean-emissions method for generating energy comprising the steps of:
burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil to release energy, wherein the natural oil byproduct is the unvaporized remnant of a natural oil composition after fatty acids are separated from the natural oil byproduct via distillation; and

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harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, the substitution of the natural oil byproduct producing a decrease in the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

18. (Amended) A clean-emissions method for generating energy comprising the steps of:

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burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil to release energy, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level within a limit established by a regulatory agency, wherein burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy would emit one or more pollutants at a concentration above the established limit; and

harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

20. (Amended) A clean-emissions method for generating energy comprising the steps of:
- burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid, from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil, about 2% to about 5% by weight unsaponifiable impurities and about 2% to about 7% by weight oxidized, polymerized fatty materials to release energy; and
- harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.
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